



**STATEMENT OF NEW ORLEANS MAYOR MARC MORIAL
PRESIDENT, THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
ON AMTRAK ANNOUNCEMENT**

February 1, 2002

“Today, Amtrak told the nation what mayors across the country have known for some time: Amtrak cannot meet service expectations and needs with its current level of funding.

“Mayors from both political parties strongly support Amtrak’s request for reauthorization, as we stated in a press conference with Mr. Warrington last week. This funding is critical to maintaining and strengthening our national rail system, which is essential for our nation’s security and economy.

“We also believe strongly that it is time for the United States to catch up to the rest of the industrialized world and build a national high-speed rail system.”

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